(क) क्या गृह मंत्रालय को महाराष्ट्र पुलिस से मध्य प्रदेश के बुरहानपुर नगर और महाराष्ट्र के भुसावल नगर के बीच पाकिस्तानी खुफिया एजेंसी आई० एस०आई० द्वारा एक शक्तिशाली सूचना केन्द्र स्थापित किए जाने की सूचना प्राप्त हुई है;

(ख) क्या केन्द्रीय सरकार ने इस सूचना केन्द्र को नष्ट करने के लिए और इसका संचालन करने वालों के विरूद्ध कोई कार्रवाई की है; और

(ग) क्या केन्द्रीय सरकार ने देश के अन्य भागों में भी आई०एस०आई० के ऐसे सूचना केन्द्रों का पता लगाने के लिए कोई कार्यवाही की है; यदि हां, तो ऐसे सूचना केन्द्रों को चलाने वाले गिरोहों में कितने भारतीय पाए गए और सरकार ने उनके विरूद्ध क्या कार्रवाई की ?

गृह मंत्री (श्री० एस० बी० चव्हाण) : (क) जी नहीं, श्रीमान्।

(ख) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

(ग) पुलिस और आसूचना संगठनों को निर्देश दिए गए हैं कि देश के सभी भागों में पाकिस्तानी आई०एस०आई० के मोड्यूल्स और गति-विधियों का जब कभी भी पता चले तो, उन्हें निष्क्रिय कर दिया जाए। देश के किसी भाग में इस प्रकार के सूचना केन्द्रों के होने की रिपोर्ट नहीं है।

Raid in Rimpick Rajabhir Forest

2177. SHRI RATNA BAHADUR RAI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that in a raid jointly conducted by the Forest Department and Police at Rimpick Rajabhir Forest under Siryalila Forest Range which is a Wild Life Sanctuary, several precious materials including skins, horns etc. of wild animals alongwith firearms were recovered on the 3rd and 4th March, 1994;

(b) if so, what were the material so recovered;

(c) how many people were arrested in this connection; and

(d) what are the details of the measures being taken to prevent such nefarious activities ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per the information received from the State Government, in this raid, the following wildlife articles were seized :

3 heads with horn of Himalayan Tahr.

3 heads with horn of Barikng deer

2 heads of Barking deer.

2 skins of Yak.

1 skin of Himalayan Black Bear.

Some firearms were also seized by the Police during this raid.

(c) Two persons were arrested on 5th March, 1994 in this connection and two offence cases were lodged by the Forest Department and the Police Department also lodged a separate case in connection with the seizure of firearms.

(d) Following this incident it is reported that the Forest Department has stepped up its protection enforcement activities including the frequency of patrolling, extension of the area under wireless communication network and a proposal for giving rewards for collection of intelligence has also been drawn-up.

Impact of poor quality coal used in power plants

2178. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item published in Hindi daily "Jansatta" of 25th October, 1994 regarding adverse impact of poor quality coal on power plants and on the environment;

(b) if so, the extent of environmental degradation in and around Kota due to pollution arising out of burning of high ash lower quality coal by the Kota Thermal Power Plant;

(c) whether there are any such incidents of increase in pollution levels in other parts of the country due to burning of high ash low quality coals in the thermal power plants or in other industries;

(d) if so, the details of environmental degradation on these accounts; and

(e) the action taken or proposed to be taken against coal companies supplying high ash low quality coal, so as to prevent environmental degradation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Indian coal presently supplied to all thermal power plants including the plant at Kota, has ash content varying from approximately 35% to

45%. The process of utilising such high ash coal would affect the ambient air and ground water quality due to emission of fly ash and its disposal problems. This can be controlled by installing high efficiency electrostatic precipitators and by utilising fly ash for the manufacturing of bricks etc.

Rajasthan State Development Investment Corporation Ltd. (RSDICO) has been entrusted with the work of identifying entrepreneurs for establishing brick making projects utilising fly ash in Rajasthan. Action has been initiated for use of fly ash bricks for public works within a radius of 100 kms. of Kota Thermal Power Station.

All thermal power plants have been directed to comply with the prescribed standards on a time-bound basis. Besides, while issuing clearance to new plants Government stipulates a green belt to be provided around the power plant to check the fugitive emissions and continuous monitoring of air and water quality by the units concerned. Further, they are required to prepare and comply with a fly ash utilisation programme. Newer plants are required to comply with fly ash utilisation to the maximum extent possible.

(e) The action taken against coal companies supplying high ash, low quality coal to prevent environmental degradation include the following :

(i) Government has sanctioned three projects for setting up of non-coking coal washeries at Bina (Singrauli Coal fields), Piparwar (North Karanpura Coal Field) and Kalinga (Talcher Coal Field).

(ii) Coal India have called for promotion of private entrepreneurs both Indian as well as foreign through global tender for setting up of non-coking coal washeries under Build-own-operate basis.

(iii) Steps have been initiated for checking quality control of coal despatches through controller's field units.

Neem Trees

2179. SHRI PERMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be please to state :

(a) what are the invironment friendly properties of Neem Trees;

(b) whether any weightage has been given to the planting of Neem trees in the afforestation programme/requirements ;

(c) if so, the guidelines thereof and the actual progress in the planting of Neem trees during the past three years; and

(d) if not, why, considering the varied environment friendly and medicinal properties of the Neem trees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) In addition to ameliorating the environment by acting as carban dioxide sinks and controlling soil erosion, Neem trees provide safe alternative to synthetic chemicals. Bio-pesticides developed from Neem are environment friendly due to their biological origin and easy degradibility. Being broad spectrum in nature, they reduced the chances of pest becoming resistant.

(b) to (d) Plantation of Neem tree is being take up by State Governments and Union Territory Administrations under miscellaneous plantations and also as avenue tree. In addition, there is a 100% Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Minor forest Produce including Medicinal Plants under National Afforestation and Eco-Development Board (NAEB) in the Ministry of Environment and Forests which includes Neem as a species to be planted in the mixed plantations under the scheme. However, specie-wise figures of trees planted under these various programmes is not collected.

Notification of "Kath" in Appendix I of C.I.T.E.S.

2180. SHRI SUSHIL BARONGPA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTES be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Quastion 94 given in the Rajya Sabha on 8th December, 1993 and state;

(a) whether the Kath of Cultivated Origin is placed in Appendix I of CITES as per new Notification; vide Public Notice No. 47/PN/92—97, dated 30th March, 1994; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) No Sir. As per CITES guidelines the cultivated variety of an Appendix-I species is automatically deemed to be under Appendix-II for the purpose of international trade. So Kuth of cultivated origin is dealt with as an Appendix II species for purposes of CITES. The Notification No. 47 (PN)/92—97 dated 30th March, 1994 prohibits the export of the listed 46 species of plants, plant portions and their derivatives obtained from the wild.